

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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SUBJ: POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK SUMMIT MEETING

REF: (A) WARSAW 4936, (B) PRAGUE 1877 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: A POLITYKA EDITORIAL OF JULY 16 ON THE POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK SUMMIT SUGGESTS THAT CERTAIN IMPORTANT BILATERAL DIFFERENCES REMAIN DESPITE SOME PROGRESS DURING THE TALKS. THESE DIFFERENCES ARE NOT MADE CLEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A CAREFULLY WORDED EDITORIAL, THE ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF POLITYKA, JAN BIJAK, ACKNOWLEDGES THE EXISTENCE OF AN ONGOING POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK QUARREL. BIJAK BEGINS BY SAYING THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, HE CANNOT REVEAL MUCH INFORMATION ON THE RECENT SUMMIT BEYOND WHAT HAS APPEARED IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

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BECAUSE THE DELEGATES WERE SO OVERWORKED THAT THEY DID NOT HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE. HE CONTINUES, "THE DISCUSSIONS WERE BY NO MEANS AN EXCHANGE OF COURTEOUS FORMULAS... DESPITE THE EARLIER WORK OF EXPERTS, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS WERE NOT RESOLVED, AND CERTAIN DISPUTES PRECEDED THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT." HE NOTES THAT THE FINAL DOCUMENT ANNOUNCED "FULL AGREEMENT" ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, BUT ADDED, "IN THE SPHERE OF BILATERAL

RELATIONS, THE SITUATION IS MORE COMPLICATED, AND POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT ARE STILL ENORMOUS."

3. ALTHOUGH BIJAK DOES NOT IDENTIFY THE ISSUES OF THE POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK DISPUTE, HE LISTS THE FOLLOWING AS POLISH GOALS, IMPLYING THAT THE CZECHS MAY NOT AGREE WITH THEM: (A) POLAND SHOULD REVERSE ITS TRADE DEFICIT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, (B) INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR ONLY 10 PERCENT OF TRADE, SHOULD INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY, PARTICULARLY IN THE BORDER AREAS, AND (C) EXCHANGE OF CONSUMER GOODS SHOULD INCREASE. BIJAK SAYS A WINDOWSHOPPER WHO MAKES A COMPARISON WITH THE WEST IS STRUCK NOT ONLY BY THE DIFFERENCE IN QUALITY, BUT ALSO BY THE POOR SELECTION BOTH IN POLAND, AND TO A LESSER DEGREE, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE COMPLAINS THAT LOCAL PRODUCERS ARE AFRAID TO IMPORT ITEMS WHICH MIGHT EXPOSE DEFECTS IN THEIR OWN PRODUCTS. HE CONCLUDES WITH THE HOPE THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR, BILATERAL, FOREIGN-TRADE PLAN WILL BE "PREPARED ON TIME" AND "MORE HARMONIOUSLY."

4. TRYBUNA LUDU OF JULY 13 REPORTED THAT THE POLITBURO WAS TOLD BY THE POLISH DELEGATION THAT TOURIST EXCHANGES BETWEEN POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD BE EXPANDED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

5. COMMENT: IN A CONVERSATION WITH A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER ON JULY 14, TRYBUNA LUDU JOURNALIST DANIEL LULINSKI DESCRIBED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLISH POLICY OF PROMOTING CLOSER ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND PPOLITICAL INTEGRATION OF THE GDR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND POLAND AS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE RESURGENCE OF A UNITED, REVANCHIST GERMANY. WITH THE RATIFICATION OF THE POLAND-GDR AGREEMENT ON JULY 14, IT APPEARS THAT THE EAST GERMANS ARE MORE WILLING PARTICIPANTS IN THIS STRATEGY THAN THE CZECHOSLOVAKS. SOME OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF REDUCING TRADE AND TRAVEL BARRIERS IS UNDERSTANDABLE TO THE POLES: WE HEAR SPORADIC REPORTS OF DIFFICULTIES IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER AREAS WHEN POLES DRIVE OVER TO BUY OUT LOCAL SUPPLIES. CZECHOSLOVAK TENNIS SHOWS, FOR INSTANCE, WHICH WOULD SELL FOR 76 ZLOTIES AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE, ARE SNAPPED UP ON THE BLACK MARKET IN WARSAW FOR 450 ZLOTIES. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS ARE ALSO SAID TO BE DISSATISFIED WITH THE SPEED WITH WHICH POLAND IS COMPLETING AN ELECT KIC POWER PLANT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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